

Media, PA - On Saturday, November 22, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA – 07) greeted constituents in two "unofficial" starts to the holiday season: the Annual Brookhaven Holiday Parade and Upper Darby's first Holiday Parade. —

"I was thrilled to participate in both events," said Congressman Sestak. "The people of Brookhaven and Upper Darby are proud of their community and that was evident by the enthusiasm I saw in the faces of the people today. They are looking forward to embracing the holiday season and coming together as a community, which is vital considering the economic challenges our nation is currently facing."

With scores of local residents lining both parade routes, Congressman Sestak raced back and forth across the road, shaking as many hands as possible and sharing in holiday cheer during the two community events.

The Brookhaven Holiday Parade, an annual event organized currently by volunteer residents, has become a family tradition for many in the Brookhaven area. Highlights of the parade included the marching of Brookhaven's Mayor Garcia, who served as the Grand Marshall of the parade and the Police Pace Motorcycles, as well as holiday songs by middle and high school marching bands. The parade began at Our Lady of Charity and made its way through the community before ending at the Coeburn Elementary School.

Upper Darby enjoyed a great turnout at its first holiday parade. Starting at 68th and Walnut, the parade ended at the Municipal Center for a tree-lighting ceremony, which was led by Mayor F. Raymond Shay.

"Both parades were exceptional opportunities to interact with my constituents and hear first-hand how current national conditions are affecting their everyday lives," said Congressman Sestak. "I especially enjoy participating in every event that gives me an opportunity to bring our community closer together."

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for*

*31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the Congress.*

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